

Major James B. Bailey House
1121 Northwest Sixth Street
Gainesville
Alachua County
Florida

(MEASURED DRAWINGS & DATA SHEETS ONLY)

HABS No. FLA-121

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-121

MAJOR JAMES B. BAILEY HOUSE

HABS

FLA

1- GAINV.

Address: 1121 Northwest Sixth Street, Gainesville,
Alachua County, Florida.

Present Owner: W. G. Busch

Present Occupant: Various renters.

Present Use: Apartment house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Major James B. Bailey, Mary N. Bailey (widow) died 1891, Mary E. and Margaret R. Bailey, Margaret Campbell, James Bailey Campbell, Mrs. E. Meanes, J. Pierce Smith.
2. Date of erection: c. 1850
3. Builder: Unknown; probably done by plantation labor.
4. Construction: Wood frame. Some hand-hewn beams, with mortised and pinioned joints.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Tin roof replaced shingle roof. Screens were made from shutter frames. Bathrooms and kitchen facilities added. Exterior stairs were removed or replaced. Central heating was added. One fireplace was remodelled and the others closed off. Outbuilding, which reputedly housed the kitchen and dining facilities has been removed. In 1960-1961 the house was divided for apartments and considerably altered; ramp added at the front.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The Major James B. Bailey house served as social center in Ante-Bellum Gainesville and is typical of frontier plantation houses of that era.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Mrs. C. A. Meanes at Hague, Florida may have some additional information which she has yet to supply. She says that most of the Bailey papers have been placed in the Florida State Museum in Gainesville. According to the curator of the museum, most of these papers have been mislaid; those on file have no reference to the Major James B. Bailey House.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Typical frontier plantation home.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: One-and-a-half stories, symmetrical layout, 2,594 square feet.
2. Foundations: Dressed native coquina stone quarried near St. Augustine.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame; horizontal wood siding.
4. Chimneys: Two; coquina stone and brick.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Simplified Greek Revival details.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows, nine lights. Wood louvered shutters (remodelled into screens); some original hardware.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gabled end, double pitch; sheet metal roofing.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice is simplified classical; eaves boxed.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas: Same.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor--four large rooms, each with its own exterior entrance. Stair hall, one long porch on south, rear stoop. Second floor--two rooms, stair hall which is divided for recent bathroom addition.
2. Stairways: Wood; semi-curved. Well detailed for home of this type.

3. Flooring: Wood--4" - 6" pine boards. 1-6/10/58
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. 1-
5. Doorways and doors: Wood, of little interest.
6. Trim: Wood--modified Greek Revival; of little interest.
Porch railing appears to be the original.
7. Hardware: Non-existing, except on shutters.
8. Lighting: None of interest.
9. Heating: Four fireplaces, one of which has been re-modelled, the others closed. Central heating is now installed.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Large lot; north-south.
2. Enclosures: Woven wire fence.
3. Outbuildings: Recent garage and playhouse. All evidence of old outbuilding removed.
4. Landscaping: Large lot covered with magnolias, oaks, azaleas; well cared for.

Prepared by Professor F. Blair Reeves
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